

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~24~~ 27 wherein the sheath portion is flared distally to facilitate engagement with and enclosure of the protection element there within.

Claims 23, 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (new): An apparatus for temporary protection adjacent a site of catheter intervention in a body vessel, the apparatus having a flexible, elongate shaft with a distal region, and a protection element mounted about the shaft distal region and being capable of preventing passage of emboli there through, the protection element comprising:

a self-expanded open configuration having:

a ring portion capable of sealing engagement with a lumen of the body vessel,

a generally conical outer body tapering distally from the ring portion to a distal open apex coupled to the shaft, and

a generally conical inner body extending coaxially within and being shorter than the outer body, the inner body tapering distally from the ring portion to a proximal open apex slidably coupled to the shaft, the inner and outer bodies being connected to each other through the ring portion; and

a closed configuration wherein the outer body and the ring portion are compacted about the shaft, and the inner body is enveloped within the compacted outer body,

wherein axial displacement of the proximal open apex towards the distal

open apex reversibly transforms the protection element from the open configuration to the closed configuration, and wherein the distal open apex is slidingly coupled to the shaft, which further comprises a stop to prevent distal advancement of the distal open apex there beyond.

Claim 26 (New): An apparatus for temporary protection adjacent a site of catheter intervention in a body vessel, the apparatus having a flexible, elongate shaft with a distal region, and a protection element mounted about the shaft distal region and being capable of preventing passage of emboli there through, the protection element comprising:

a self-expanded open configuration having:

a ring portion capable of sealing engagement with a lumen of the body vessel,

a generally conical outer body tapering distally from the ring portion to a distal open apex coupled to the shaft, and

a generally conical inner body extending coaxially within and being shorter than the outer body, the inner body tapering distally from the ring portion to a proximal open apex slidably coupled to the shaft, the inner and outer bodies being connected to each other through the ring portion; and

a closed configuration wherein the outer body and the ring portion are compacted about the shaft, and the inner body is enveloped within the compacted outer body,

wherein axial displacement of the proximal open apex towards the distal open apex reversibly transforms the protection element from the open configuration to the closed configuration;

the apparatus further comprising an elongate tubular actuator slidably disposed along the shaft and engageable with the proximal open apex to effect movement thereof towards the distal open apex, the actuator having an elongate wire-like proximal shaft and a relatively short tubular distal section.

Claim 27 (New): An apparatus for temporary protection adjacent a site of catheter intervention in a body vessel, the apparatus having a flexible, elongate shaft with a distal region, and a protection element mounted about the shaft distal region and being capable of preventing passage of emboli there through, the protection element comprising:

a self-expanded open configuration having:

a ring portion capable of sealing engagement with a lumen of the body vessel,

a generally conical outer body tapering distally from the ring portion to a distal open apex coupled to the shaft, and

a generally conical inner body extending coaxially within and being shorter than the outer body, the inner body tapering distally from the ring portion to a proximal open apex slidably coupled to the shaft, the inner and outer bodies being connected to each other through the ring portion; and

a closed configuration wherein the outer body and the ring portion are compacted about the shaft, and the inner body is enveloped within the compacted outer body,

wherein axial displacement of the proximal open apex towards the distal open apex reversibly transforms the protection element from the open configuration to the closed configuration;

the apparatus further comprising an elongate tubular actuator slidably disposed along the shaft and engageable with the proximal open apex to effect movement thereof towards the distal open apex, the actuator having a tubular distal portion being sized to fit within the inner body when the protection element is in the closed configuration, the actuator further comprising a sheath portion surrounding a proximal region of the tubular distal portion to form an annular pocket adapted to enclose at least a proximal portion of the protection element when the protection element is in the closed configuration.